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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES:
ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS

Brazil and Chile: draft resolution

Consumer protection

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/248 of 9 April 1985, in which the Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection,

Recalling also its resolutions 1988/61 of 27 July 1988 and 1990/85 of 27 July 1990, as well as resolution 48/7 of 23 April 1992 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, [1] in which Governments were urged to implement the guidelines for consumer protection and the Secretary-General was requested to provide assistance to Governments to that end,

[1] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 11 (E/1992/31), chap. IV.

Recalling, in particular, its resolution 1995/53 of 28 July 1995, in which it requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to elaborate guidelines in the area of sustainable consumption patterns and to examine the possible extension of those guidelines into other areas,

Noting that the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its third session, recommended that the guidelines for consumer protection be expanded to include guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns, [2]

Taking note of decision 4/13 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its fourth session, [3] in which it requested Consumers International to assist the United Nations and its member Governments in the early revision of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, to include aspects of more sustainable consumption and production patterns,

Aware that the need for assistance in the area of consumer protection, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, remains great,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on consumer protection, [4] prepared pursuant to Council resolution 1995/53, containing information on the progress achieved within the United Nations system to promote the implementation of the guidelines for consumer protection, as well as on regional and international co-operation to promote consumer protection;

2. Recognizing the impact the guidelines have had in many countries in promoting just, equitable and sustainable economic and social development through their implementation by Governments;

3. Also recognizes the important role of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations, in promoting the implementation of the guidelines;

4. Welcomes the recent initiatives of the United Nations in partnership with international consumer organizations, such as Consumers International, donors and host Governments in convening regional conferences on consumer protection, such as those held in the Africa and the Asia and Pacific regions, for fostering the implementation of the guidelines and initiating the process

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[2] Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 45, sect. E.

[3] Ibid., 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] E/1997/61.

of revising the guidelines and extending them into the area of sustainable consumption patterns and other possible areas;

5. Urges Member States, other entities of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue efforts to implement effectively the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection and to continue further work on the elaboration of guidelines to cover sustainable consumption patterns and other areas;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake this work through the convening of an interregional expert group meeting to be financed from extrabudgetary resources and, in collaboration with interested Governments, Consumers International and other concerned entities active in this field, taking into account the recommendations emanating from the recently held regional conferences on consumer protection, as well as the proposals of Consumers International on the early revision of the United Nations guidelines, to include aspects of more sustainable consumption patterns;

7. Recommends that the interregional expert group meeting elaborate specific guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998, through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session in 1998;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the extension of the guidelines into other areas;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 on the implementation of the present resolution.